



Balldin earns two Swedish awards for Brooks work *by Rudy Purificato, 311 HSW*

BROOKS AFB, Texas — Dr. Ulf Balldin was recently honored with two prestigious Swedish awards for his work at Brooks AFB involving aviation medicine research and G-force protection for fighter pilots.

A Wyle Laboratories, Inc. aerospace medicine senior scientist who supports the Air Force Research Laboratory Human Effectiveness Directorate's Biodynamics and Protection Division, Balldin was recognized for his work primarily conducted at Brooks AFB since 1992 under a Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S. and Swedish Departments of Defense. His acceleration physiology research focused on G-force protection that led to the development and testing of new anti-G suits for fighter pilots for both the U.S. and Swedish Air Force.

In November, Balldin received the Royal Swedish Academy of War Sciences medal for his work that led to the development of the new Tactical Flight Combat suit for Sweden's Gripen fighter. The award, established in the 19th century by Carl XIV Johan, King of Sweden and Norway, was presented to Balldin at Karlberg Castle in Stockholm. Balldin was elected permanent Academician of the Royal Swedish Academy of War Sciences in 1991.

Earlier this year, he received the Thulin medal in silver from the Swedish Society of Aeronautics and Astronautics in Stockholm. The award recognized Balldin's research involving physiological effects of high G-loads on pilots. "This work created new knowledge used in the development of the Tactical Flight Combat suit system for the SAAB-built fighter aircraft Gripen presently being delivered to the Swedish Air Force. This anti-G suit system is now being operationally used in Gripen aircraft," Balldin said.

Balldin's on-going research includes developing countermeasures for decompression sickness during high altitude military flight and during space operations for the international space station.

He also serves as a U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine faculty member and a clinical assistant professor at the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. @